

From the Spirit of the West.
REMINISCENCES OF THE ELDER BOOTH.

SEEING THE INVISIBLE.

BY FREDERIC CARTER.

I knew Briscoe Booth, Sr., in Baltimore, where his eccentricities were better known, perhaps, than in any other city. His freaks of insanity, and his many weird events, were the chief inhabitants of that city that he most absurd performances excited but little remark.

A few reminiscences of his mysterious conduct during that period may be read with interest.

On a miserable December morning Booth's physician was sitting in his office on Gay street, when he heard a sharp, clear, ringing sound, and thought from the peculiar clink-slap sound of the visitor's footsteps, that he was a negro slave. He was right. A negro slave, a negro slave, and a dizzling rain was now falling, causing the streets to be in a deplorable condition. The doctor was occupied without knowing it, and, like most physicians, was a good man, with nothing upon his feet but a pair of thin stockings. Sprawling in an earnest voice, and with a smile upon his face, he said: "I am remarkable, he asked the doctor if he could go and see his father, who was very ill. He was so poor, he had no money to pay for a carriage, so he started to a house a few squares distant Booth leading the way. The doctor was conducted to a room in the fourth story, which he entered, and found the old man, his son, his son, repose the miserable man's sleep, sleeping the sleep of death. He had been dead so long, his body was cold and stiff, and the corpse was cold as ice."

The doctor examined the body a moment and said:

"My Booth, your father is dead."

"Can't you do anything for him?" inquired the actor.

"I can't, but I will try to rescue him."

Booth then approached the lifeless form of his father, and, seizing him by the lower jaw, sprang him up, and, holding him by the hair of his head, hauled him up straight. To his apparent surprise he did not succumb, and, turning slightly away, he observed:

"I am dead; he is dead."

On one occasion Booth entered a bakery, clothed in rags, and carrying in his hand a small bag containing flour. He was followed by a black handkerchief. Accusing the baker, he said:

"Will you trust me for a loaf of bread?"

The man, seeming to know his customer, replied: "Yes, I will trust you." Booth pawned his bag, and, sending the baker to keep his bundle to pawn until the master was paid, as soon as possible, he took the bag and went to the black handkerchief, and found that it contained a quid of tobacco, an orange shell, and an old shirt, which he threw into the back yard.

In a new suit of handsome black, and looking the picture of gentility,

"I can give you five cents," he said, and thereupon paid it. He continued: "I will now trouble you for the small bundle I left with you."

"I will give you five cents," was the reply, "but I will not charge you for it."

"So far, excuse me, Booth," commented an observer.

It is said, he was a man of great energy. The things we dream of, and more than we dream.

We shall never dream, but we shall be charged.

We have living relatives, too, to face.

With our souls, and we shall not be afraid."

We have received a letter from one of the members of the 12th Kentucky regiment. It is written from Raleigh, North Carolina. The writer says everything is quiet at that place, the troops in good spirits, and excellent health. It is beginning to look like peace in that region. The people are ploughing with old cavalry horses, and everything looks like prosperity.

A man and his wife in Philadelphia quarreled and fought with a pistol a week ago, and were shot. When the daughter, who had gone into the cellar for some advice for her mother, returned to the room, with her parents were shot and dying, with their brains dashed out.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, a Swede named Johnson committed a robbery of the home of his son, with an axe. The murderer has sent the spiritus to do the deed.

PERSONAL TRAITS OF GEN. GEORGE H. THOMAS.

The distinctive feature of General Thomas' character is his intense, frank, and ready manner.

A good one of him may be obtained by meeting him in his office, or in the language of the prize-ring, "on the ropes."

Thomas derives his strength from the warrior with whom he has been associated, and especially from his experience in war, and accomplish his purposes by sheer strength. Sherman is the most prominent example of this, in the column. Thomas, the conqueror of heavily armed columns. He was called "the bulldog" in contradistinction to Sherman, who was the "bulldog" in the language of the prize-ring.

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